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ADVENTURE
SERIES

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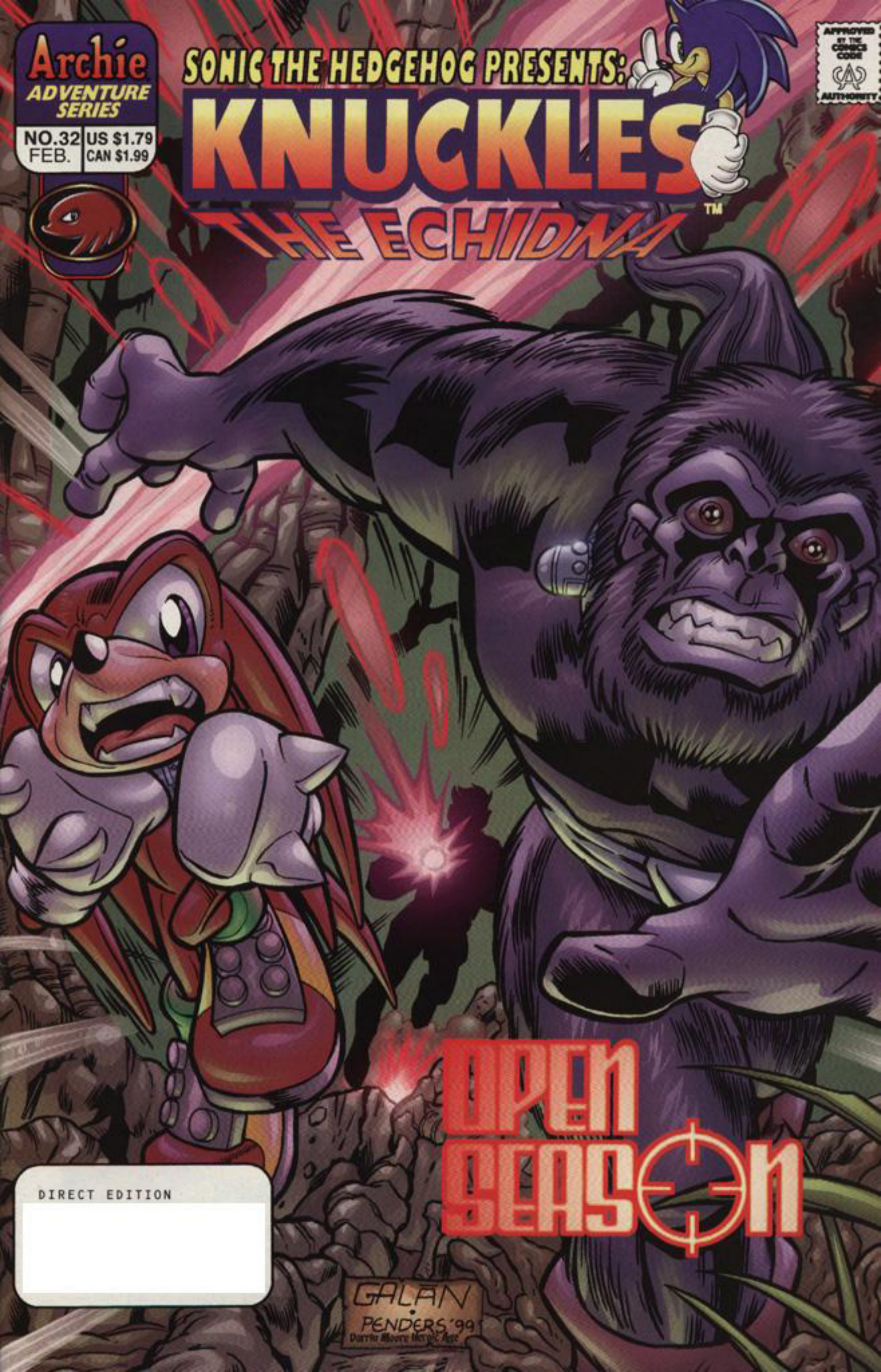
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:

KNUCKLES

THE ECHIDNA

TM

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



DIRECT EDITION

OPEN
SEASON

GALAN

PENDERS '99

Darwin Moore Metalic Art

GNUCKLES

BOOK THIRTY-TWO KING OF THE HILL PART THREE OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

When we last left our hero, Knuckles was forced -- by the overlander Hunter -- to wear a collar around his neck. It is electronically connected to another, worn by the gorilla, Monk. They cannot separate without being electronically zapped by their collars.

Forced to work together, the unhappy duo struggles to evade the evil sportsman as he commences with the hunt...



A HIDDEN CITY?!!

LOCATED DEEP WITHIN THE FLOATING ISLAND?!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!!

LOOK--DO YOU WANT A FIGHTING CHANCE WITH HUNTER OR NOT?!!



YOU MADE YOUR POINT!

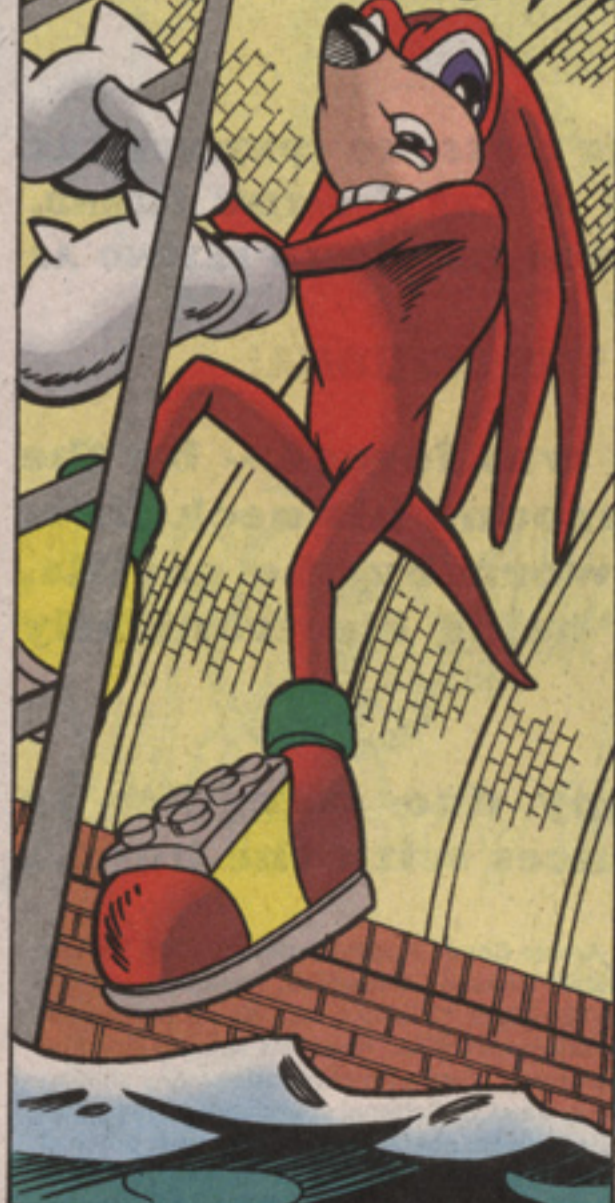
I JUST THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE!

YOU DON'T KNOW EVEN A TENTH OF THE SECRETS AND MYSTERIES OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!



AND I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE ISLAND!

HARDLY! I'M STILL LEARNING!



DID YOU AT LEAST KNOW WE'D COME TO A DEAD END?

THERE'S A WAY DOWN!



WHY DON'T YOU SHOW ME?!

HEY!!!

MONK
CAUGHT ME
BY
SURPRISE!

WHAT'S YOUR
PROBLEM,
ECHIDNA?

I WASN'T
PREPARED
TO GLIDE
YET!

FORTUNATELY, I'M
ABLE TO BREAK
MY FALL!

IT'S ONLY
WATER DOWN
BELOW!

WHAT'S TO
BE SCARED
OF?

IF I WASN'T STUCK
WITH YOU, I'D BE AWFUL
TEMPTED TO LEAVE
YOU TO FEND FOR
YOURSELF!

C'MON! TIME'S
A' WASTING!

GUESS YOU'RE
USED TO TAKING
A DIVE!

VER-RY
FUNNY!

CRASH!

ALL RIGHT
ALREADY!

I'M MOVING
AS FAST AS
I CAN!

YOU BETTER
PICK UP THE
PACE!

OTHERWISE,
THAT LINE WILL
READ GOOD ON YOUR
TOMBSTONE!

HUNTER
STILL HAS
TO CATCH US
FIRST--

--PROVIDING
HE CAN FIND
US!

WHERE
IN BLAZES
ARE WE
ANYWAY?

HEY!!

DON'T GET
TOO FAR
AHEAD!

HUNTER'S
COLLAR IS
STARTING TO
HURT!

TO THE DEPTHS

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING!
THIS IS A REAL PAIN!

AS FOR WHERE WE ARE--

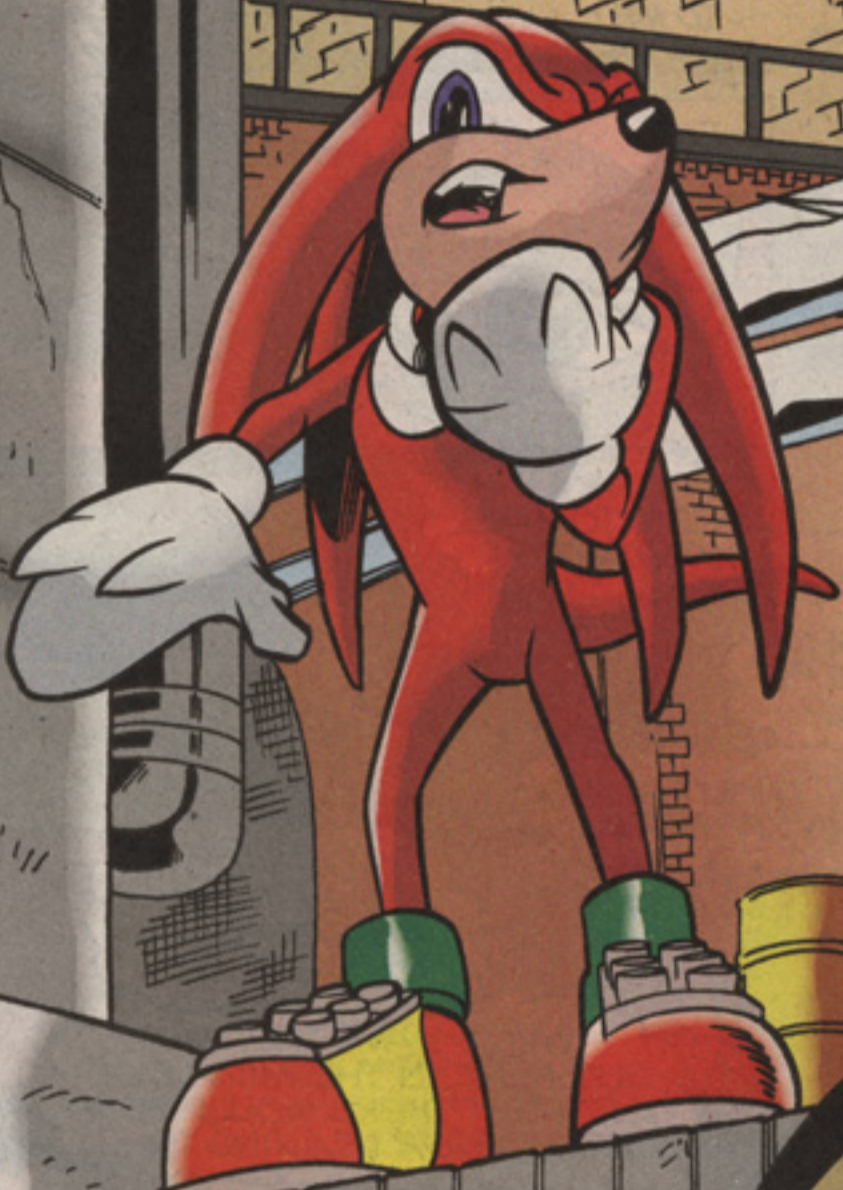
CHAPTER I

--WELCOME TO HYDRO CITY!!

I WAS TOLD IT WAS FIRST BUILT HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO--

--BEFORE EVEN ECHIDNAOPOLIS SUPPOSEDLY WAS!

AND THERE HASN'T BEEN A SOUL DOWN HERE EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER!



WE'LL HEAD DOWN THIS TUNNEL!

UNLESS HUNTER IS TRACKING US VIA OUR COLLARS--

"--WE AT LEAST HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE OF SURVIVAL!"

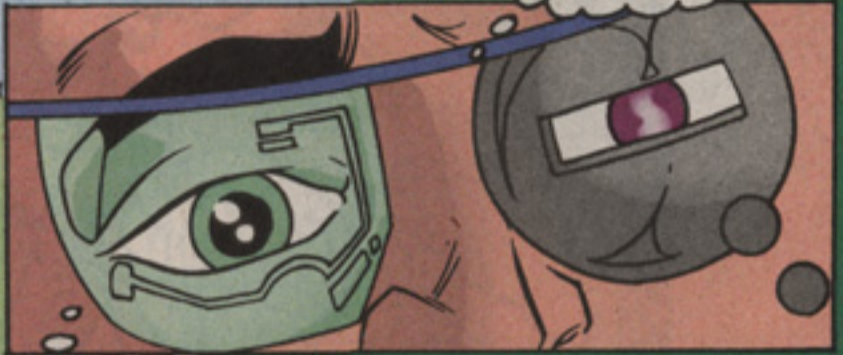
INTERESTING THE TWO OF THEM SHOULD HEAD THIS WAY!

I WOULD'VE USED THE RIVER BACK THERE TO THROW ANYONE FOLLOWING OFF MY TRAIL!

AS IT IS--

--EVEN TREADING AS LIGHTLY AS THEY HAVE, THE IMPRESSION THEY LEFT IN THE GRASS IS LIKE A BEACON TO ME!

BUT WHAT'S THIS?!



THEY SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED!

THEIR FOOTSTEPS SIMPLY END--

--WITHOUT GOING ANYWHERE!

INGENIUS! THEY WENT UNDERGROUND TO EVADE ME!

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST THERE WOULD BE A TRAP DOOR LEADING TO--

--LEADING TO WHAT? NOW THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION!

INTERESTING! I HEAR WATER FLOWING DOWN BELOW!

IT APPEARS MY EARLIER THOUGHTS ABOUT THOSE TWO WERE INCORRECT--

"--AS THEY MAY
YET MAKE A
CHALLENGE OF
THE HUNT YET!"

WHAT DO YOU
SLIPPOSE IT IS,
ARCHIMEDES?

I HESITATE TO EVEN
GUESS, LOCKE--

--BUT WE
MIGHT FIND
WHOEVER'S
JAMMING
OUR SYSTEM
INSIDE!

THIS IS
UNUSUAL!

NO ALARMS
OR SECURITY
SYSTEMS TO
SPEAK OF,
APPARENTLY!

I WOULD
IMAGINE SOMEONE
WHO WOULD GO TO
THE TROUBLE OF
SCRAMBLING
OUR ENTIRE
COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM--

-- WOULD BE MORE
HOSTILE TOWARD
INTRUDERS!

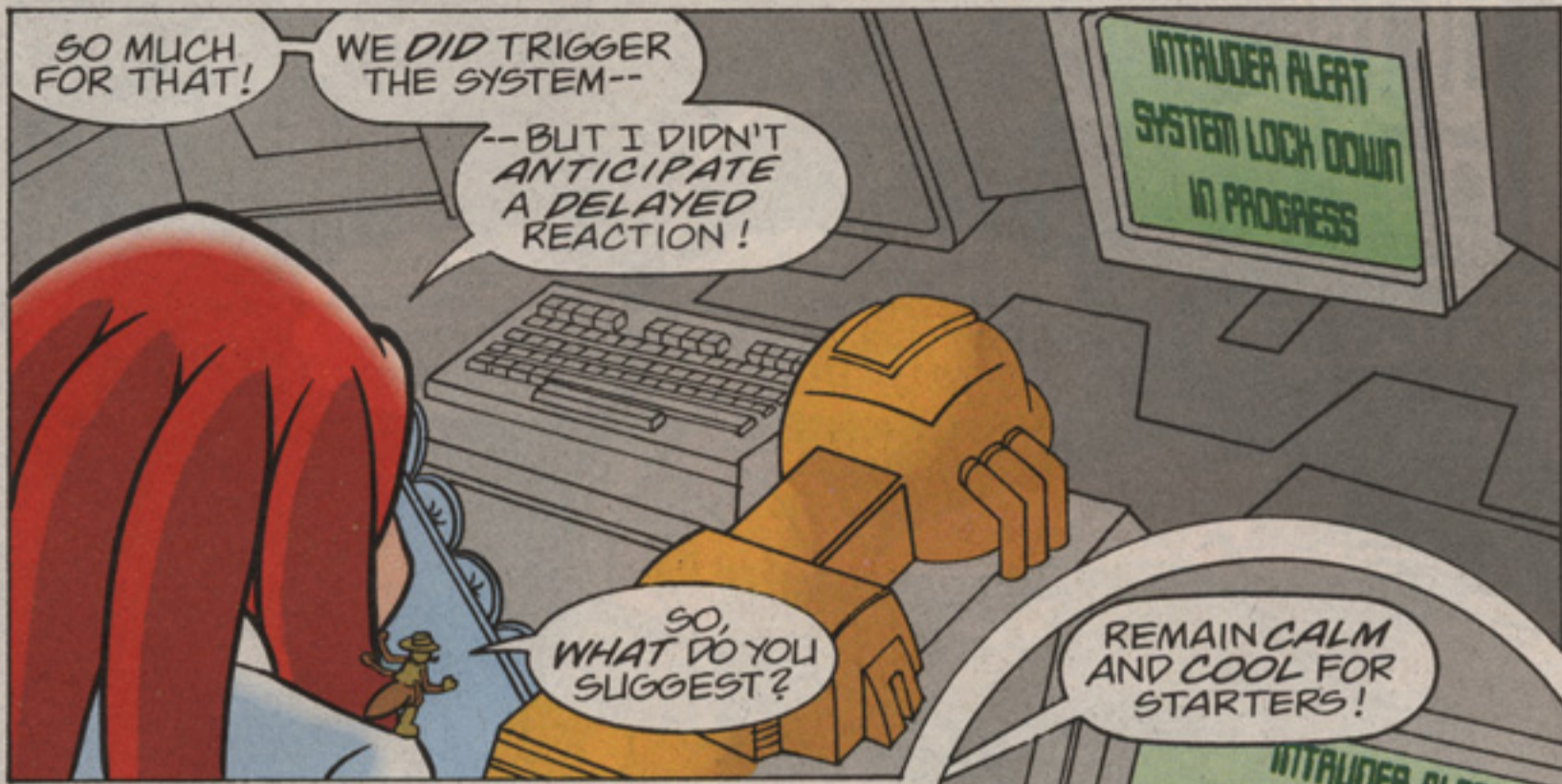
IT'S ALMOST
TOO QUIET,
ARCHIMEDES!

THE CALM
BEFORE THE
STORM, EH?

THE CONSOLE!!

IT'S BEEN
ACTIVATED!

BRRP-BRRP-BRRP-BRRP



SO MUCH FOR THAT!

WE DID TRIGGER THE SYSTEM--

-- BUT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE A DELAYED REACTION!

SO, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

REMAIN CALM AND COOL FOR STARTERS!

INTRUDER ALERT
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION
DIAGNOSTICS ACTIVATED
SEQUENCE ONE CHECKED...
SEQUENCE TWO CHECKED...
SYSTEM COMPROMISED
DESTRUCT SEQUENCE ACTIVATE
60...59...58...



WE NOW HAVE LESS THAN A MINUTE TO SAVE OURSELVES!

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT WE HAVE TO PREVENT THIS PLACE FROM BLOWING UP!

NO TELLING WHO OR WHAT IS ON BOARD BESIDES US!

BEST GUESS-- THIS MAY DO THE TRICK!

AND IF YOU'RE WRONG, LOCKE?

WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE!

LET'S CUT OUR LOSSES AND GET OUT OF HERE!



KA BOOM!

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE, IF YOU ASK ME!

WHOEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH WILL DO ANYTHING WHEN DEALING WITH THE OPPOSITION!

THAT MAKES IT MORE IMPERATIVE WE FIND KNUCKLES!

End Chapter One

TO THE DEATH

CHAPTER 2

FINALLY!
I'M REGISTERING A
HEAT SIGNATURE
IN MY SIGHTS!

I'M
REGISTERING
ONLY ONE,
HOWEVER!

THE OTHER
MUST BE OUT OF
MY LINE-OF-
SIGHT!

NO MATTER!
IF THEY WISH TO
MAKE IT EASY FOR
ME, I'LL TAKE DOWN
THE ONE--

" --AND MOVE IN
FOR THE KILL ON
THE OTHER! "

WHOA!
DIDJA SEE
THAT?!

HUNTER'S
CLOSING IN!

HE
MUST HAVE SEEN
YOUR TORCH
AND WANTED TO
SCARE
US!

G'MON!





DITCH THE LIGHT, MONK!

HEY!!!



THAT'S PROBABLY HOW HE WAS ABLE TO SEE US!

YOUR MOTHER EVER TEACH YOU MANNERS?

LIKE YOU'RE SUCH A CLASS ACT, EH?

NOW-C'MON!



EVEN IF HE CAN'T SEE US, HE'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US IF WE STAY ALONG THIS PATH!

WE'RE IN A TUNNEL, YOU BABOON!

I DON'T SEE MANY OPTIONS IN HERE!




HOW'S THIS? YOU SCARED OF A LITTLE CLIMB?

DOES THE TERM "OPEN SEASON" HAVE ANY MEANING TO YOU?

LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE!


KEEP MOVING! TIME'S AWASTING!



THEY'RE EITHER GETTING CARELESS--

--OR ELSE THEY DON'T REALIZE HOW FAR SOUND TRAVELS DOWN HERE!


EITHER WAY--



--IT COULD BE THEIR UNDOING!

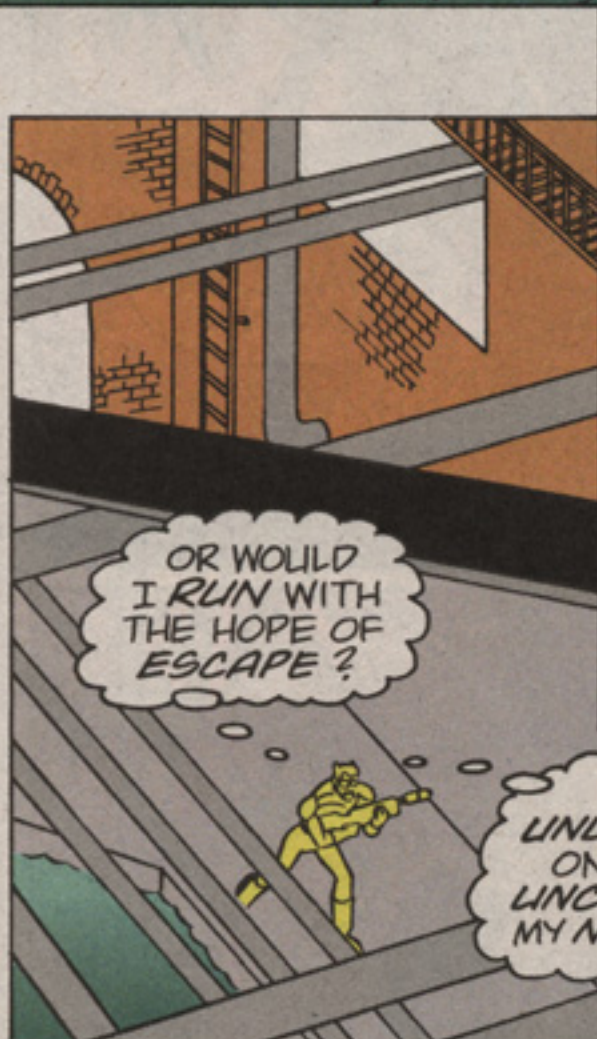
Hmmm--THEY'VE GOTTEN QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN!

TALK ABOUT THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK--



--OVERCONFIDENCE COULD BE MY UNDOING IF I DON'T PAY ATTENTION!

NOW, IF I WERE THEY-- I'D HEAD FOR THE HIGH GROUND!

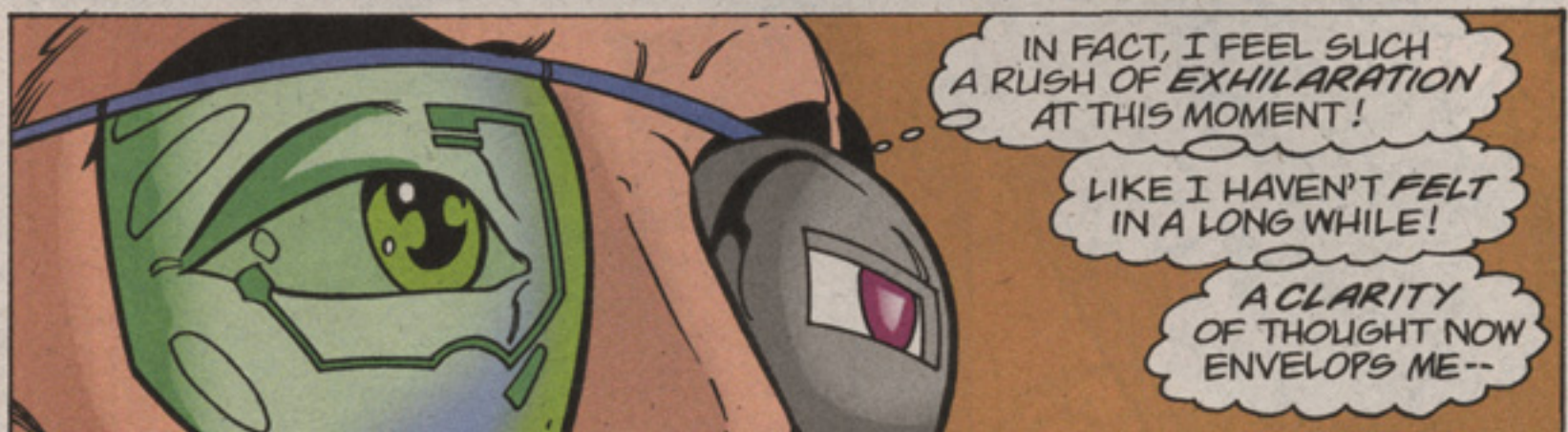


OR WOULD I RUN WITH THE HOPE OF ESCAPE?

BUT IF I WERE THEY-- WOULD I STAY AND FIGHT?

MOST UNUSUAL! FOR ONCE I'M UNCERTAIN OF MY NEXT MOVE!

BY FORCING THE TWO OF THEM TO DEPEND ON EACH OTHER, THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS THAT MUCH GREATER!



IN FACT, I FEEL SUCH A RUSH OF EXHILARATION AT THIS MOMENT!

LIKE I HAVEN'T FELT IN A LONG WHILE!

A CLARITY OF THOUGHT NOW ENVELOPS ME--

"--ALERTING ME THAT I HAD BEST BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE RETALIATION!"

HERE'S THE *ELECTRIC* CABLE YOU WANTED--

--EVEN THOUGH I DON'T SEE WHAT GOOD IT WILL DO!

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT YOU, MONK--

-- YOUR ABILITY TO STRATEGIZE!

BAD ENOUGH I CAN'T GLIDE THROUGH THIS MESS THAT I HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOU!



WE NEED TO SET A TRAP!

OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, SOMETHING THAT MAKES LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR HUNTER AND BUYS US SOME TIME!



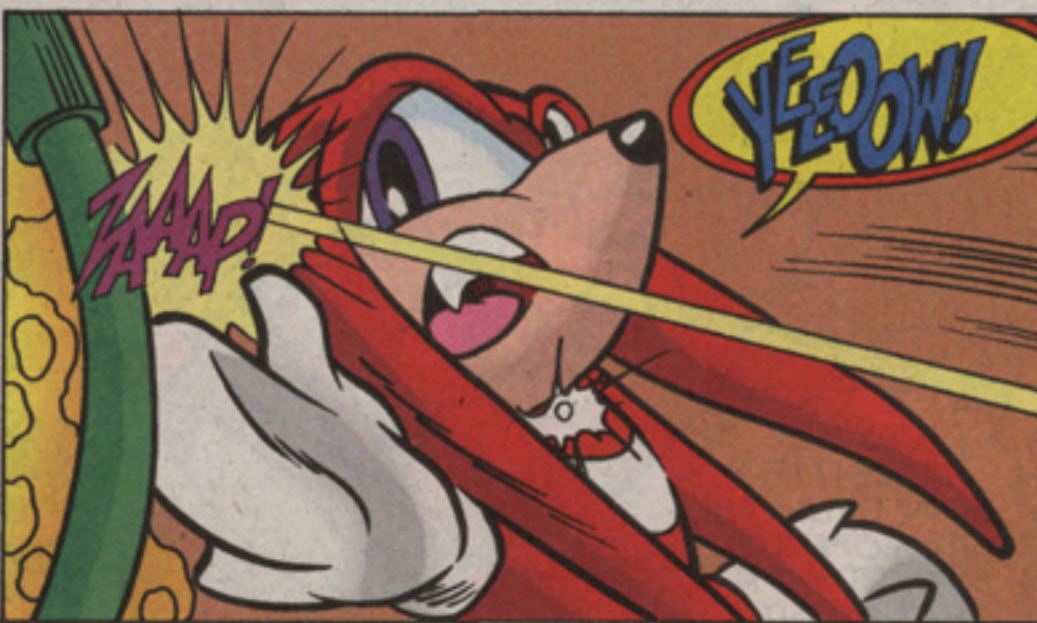
I THINK YOU'RE WHACKO, ECHIDNA!

ONE CARELESS MOVE AND WE BITE THE BIG ONE INSTEAD!



YEAH-- WELL, STAY CLOSE!

THIS COLLAR IS A PAIN IN THE NECK THE FARTHER YOU ARE FROM ME!



ZAAP!

YEEOW!



I WAS RIGHT!

BY ATTEMPTING TO HOLD THEIR GROUND, THEY GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP!

NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN THEM A WARNING SHOT, IT'S TIME TO GO IN FOR THE KILL!

AAARGHHH!

MONK'S TOO FAR!

CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE THROUGH ALL THIS PAIN!

UUUNNGHH!

I'LL BE AMAZED IF I DIDN'T PULL MY ARM OFF ITS SOCKET WITH THAT STUNT!

IMPOSSIBLE!!! I MISSED!!!

HOW?!! HOW?!! MY AIM WAS TRUE!!



AARRGH!!

WHA--?? THE MONKEY ?!!

I'M GONNA WRAP THAT RIFLE AROUND YOUR NECK IF YOU DON'T REMOVE THIS BLASTED COLLAR RIGHT NOW!!!

BETTER ROLL WITH THE BLOW-- SO AS TO BE IN A POSITION TO REGAIN CONTROL!



TAKE IT OFF!! TAKE IT OFF!!

DO YOU HEAR?!

JUST A BIT MORE LEVERAGE AND--

HE'S CRAZED OUT OF HIS MIND WITH PAIN!



ZAAPI!



Monk!!!

HUUUNNTERRRR!



SOMETHING'S WRONG!



THE PAIN INFLICTED FROM THE COLLAR SHOULD BE OVERWHELMING!



MY RIFLE!!!



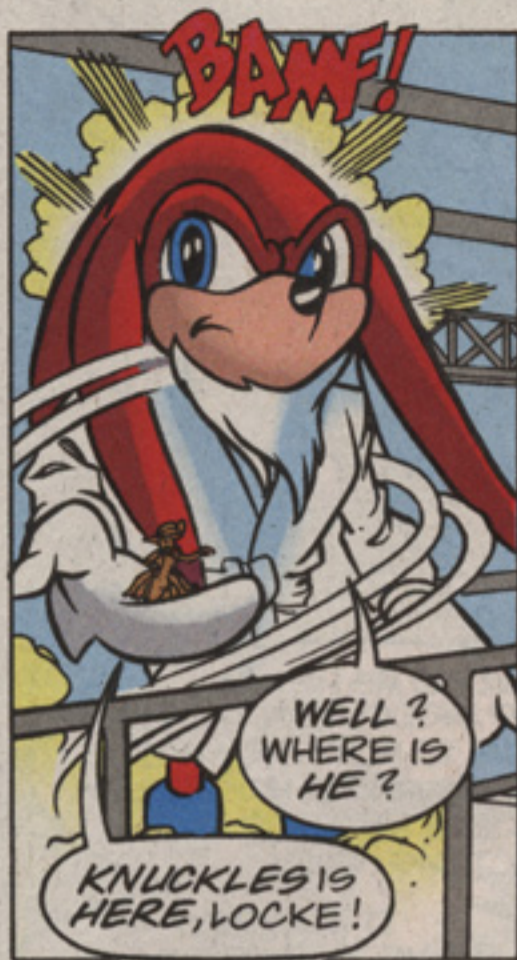
IT'S BEGUN TO VIBRATE!



SO DEEP IS HIS ANGER THAT KNUCKLES LOSES ALL TRACE OF RATIONAL THOUGHT, ALLOWING INSTINCT TO TAKE OVER, AND IN DOING SO--

--UNLEASHES THE PRIMAL CHAOS ENERGY FORCE THAT RESIDES USUALLY DORMANT WITH HIM, MUCH TO THE DESPAIR OF HIS UNSUSPECTING FOE!





BAMF!

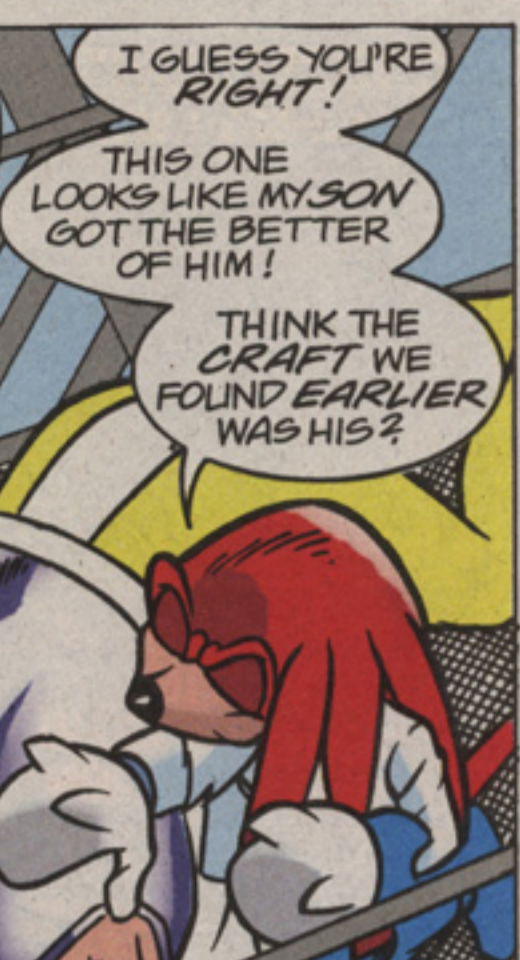
WELL?
WHERE IS
HE?

KNUCKLES IS
HERE, LOCKE!



IT'S JUST THAT ALL THE
DUCTWORK AND WIRING MAKE
IT DIFFICULT FOR MY
DIRECTIONAL SENSE
TO PINPOINT THE EXACT
SPOT!

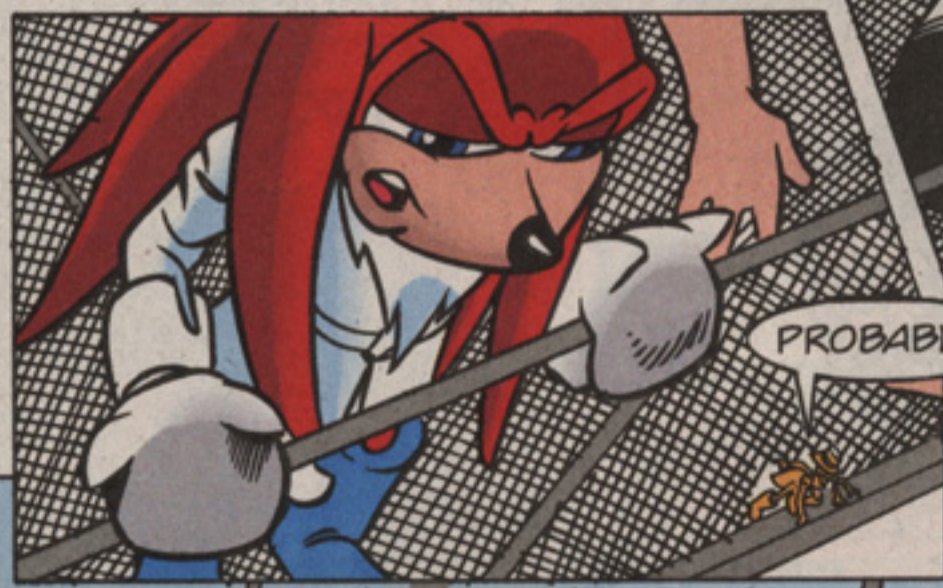
HE'S WITHIN THE
IMMEDIATE VACINITY,
MARK MY WORDS!



I GUESS YOU'RE
RIGHT!

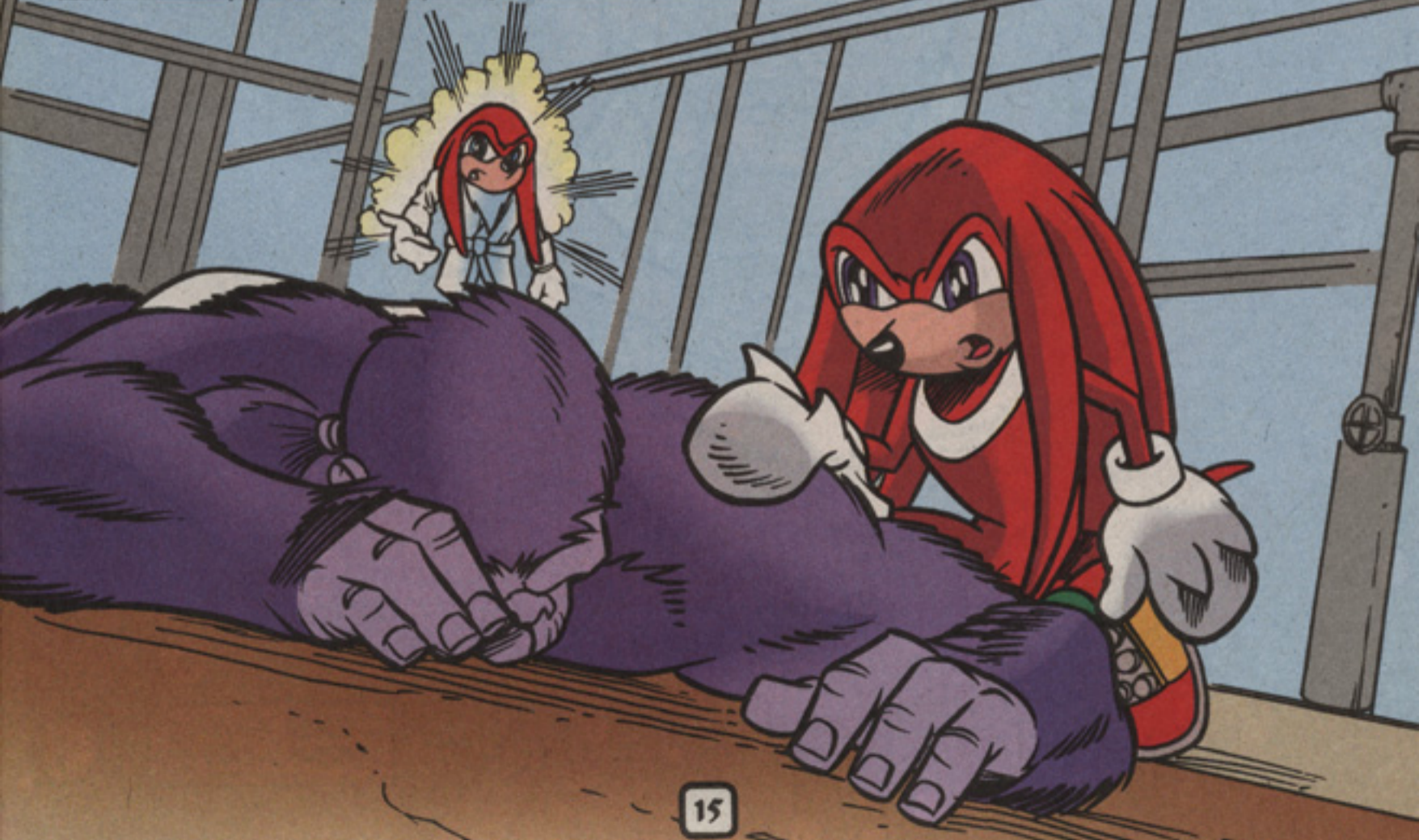
THIS ONE
LOOKS LIKE MY SON
GOT THE BETTER
OF HIM!

THINK THE
CRAFT WE
FOUND EARLIER
WAS HIS?



PROBABLY.

SPEAKING
OF OUR YOUNG
CHARGE...



SOME TIME LATER, DEEP WITHIN
THE INNER CORE OF HAVEN...

I'LL SAY
THIS FOR HUNTER,
HE'S QUITE
RESILIENT!

HE HASN'T
BUDGED AN INCH SINCE
WE PLACED HIM IN THE
PRISON POD!

IF IT GETS TOO
UNBEARABLE IN THERE, WE
CAN ALWAYS MOVE HIM TO THE
CRYOGENIC CHAMBER!

AS LONG AS HE CAN
EAT AND BREATHE IN THERE,
I WANT HIM TO ROT FOR WHAT HE
DID TO MONK, AND SNOWPIGEON
AND ALL THE REST OF HIS
VICTIMS, DAD!

IT MAY NOT
BRING THEM BACK, BUT
AT LEAST NOW THEY CAN
REST EASIER!



THE END...
FOR NOW!

ESPIO THE CHAMELEON

THE STORY THUS FAR... AFTER CAPTURING AND ROBOTICIZING THE CHAMELEON VALDEZ, ROBOTNIK MACH 2 THEN SENT HIM BACK TO HIS PEOPLE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND, WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF HAVING VALDEZ USE THEM AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN OBTAINING THE CHAOS EMERALD FROM THE GAURDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND.

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SCHEME IS ESPIO, WHO MUST DECIDE IF HE CAN SAVE VALDEZ, WITHOUT BETRAYING KNUCKLES...

WELL, MY FRIEND, WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

I'LL DO IT!

I'LL HELP YOU GET THE EMERALD ON CONDITION YOU FIRST RELEASE EVERYONE ELSE!

IN: THE WORST OF ENEMIES

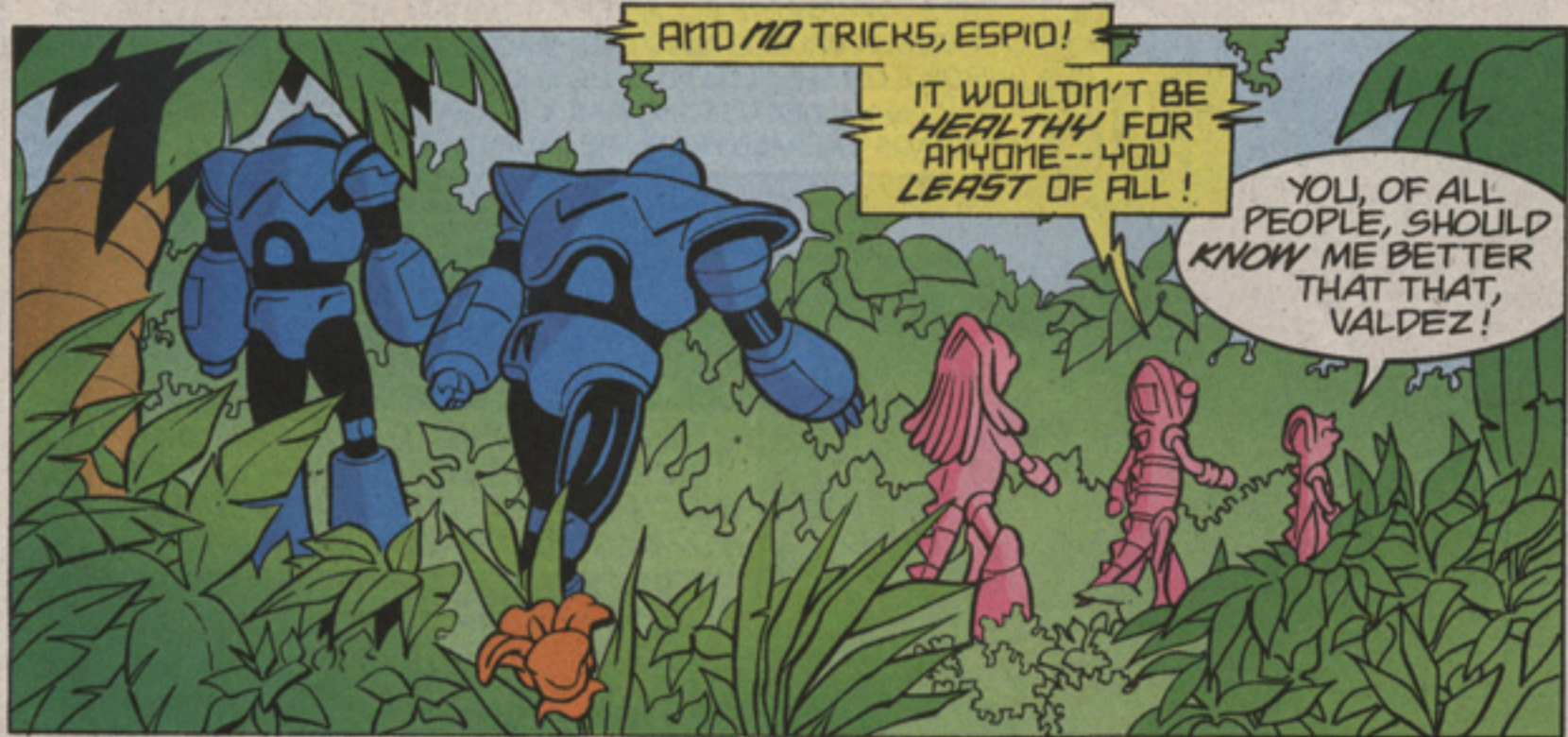
WHAT SORT OF FOOL DO YOU TAKE ME FOR, ESPIO?

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY BARGAINING FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH!

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US TO KNUCKLES FIRST AND HELP US OBTAIN THE EMERALD!

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NOW, LET'S GO!



AND NO TRICKS, ESPID!

IT WOULDN'T BE HEALTHY FOR ANYONE-- YOU LEAST OF ALL!

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW ME BETTER THAT THAT, VALDEZ!



IN FACT, I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE TIME YOU AND I WENT TO SEE KNUCKLES IN HIS DOMAIN!

WHAT WAS IT-- FOUR? FIVE YEARS AGO?



I CAN'T RECALL!

THIS PATH SEEMS VAGUELY FAMILIAR, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IN ANY EVENT!



ALL I NEED TO DO IS PRESS THIS BUTTON AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE, AND NOTHING YOU SAY OR DO WILL STOP WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

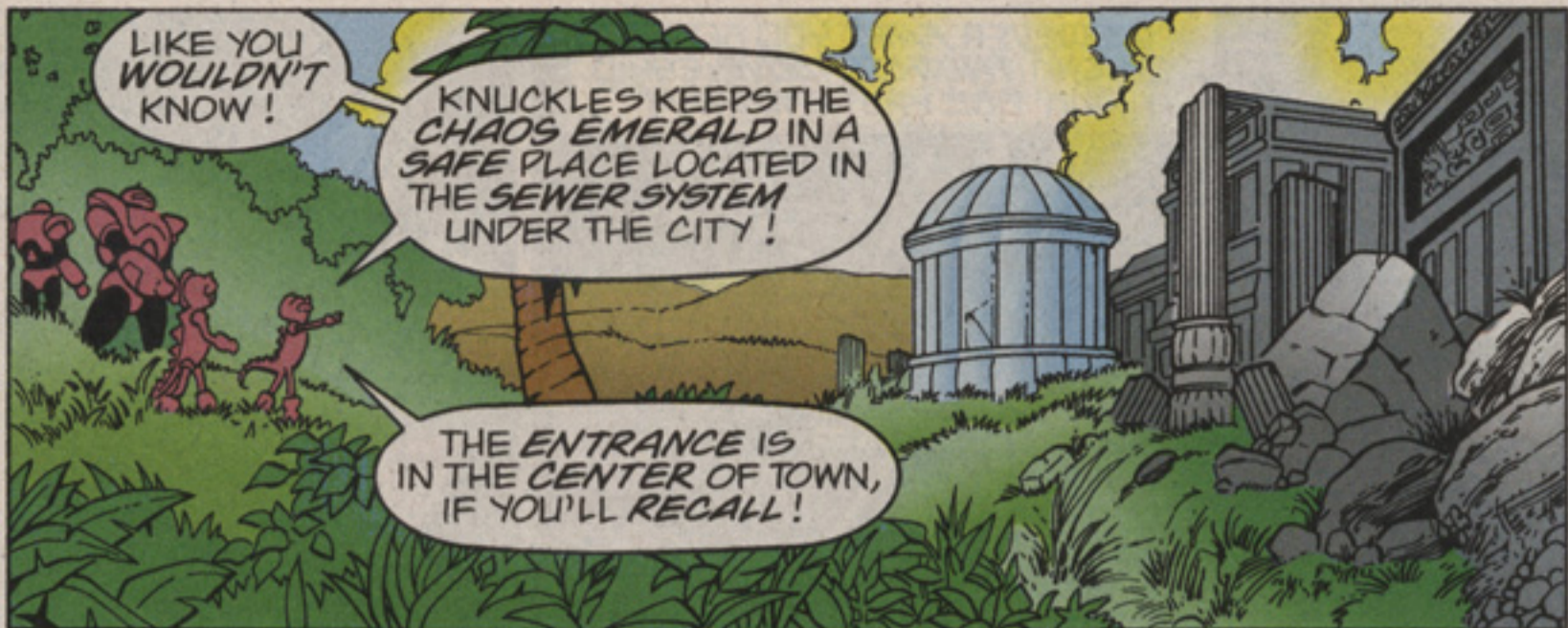


WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A BROKEN RECORD, VALDEZ?

I'D LIKE TO THINK DESPITE WHAT'S BECOME OF YOU, THERE'S STILL SOME PART OF YOU I CAN REASON WITH!

SPARE ME!

IS THAT OUR OBJECTIVE UP AHEAD?



LIKE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW!

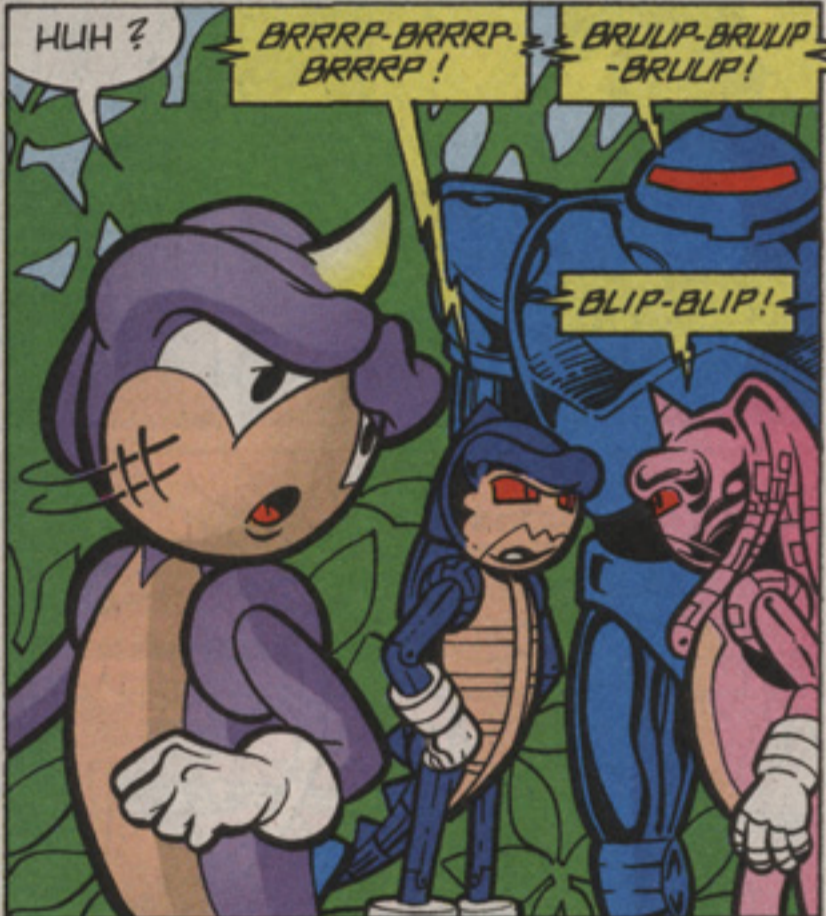
KNUCKLES KEEPS THE CHAOS EMERALD IN A SAFE PLACE LOCATED IN THE SEWER SYSTEM UNDER THE CITY!

THE ENTRANCE IS IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, IF YOU'LL RECALL!



LAST WARNING, ESPID! DON'T GET LITE!

ALL RIGHT, THEN-- FOLLOW ME!



HUH?

BRRRP-BRRRP-BRRRP!

BRUIP-BRUIP-BRUIP!

BLIP-BLIP!

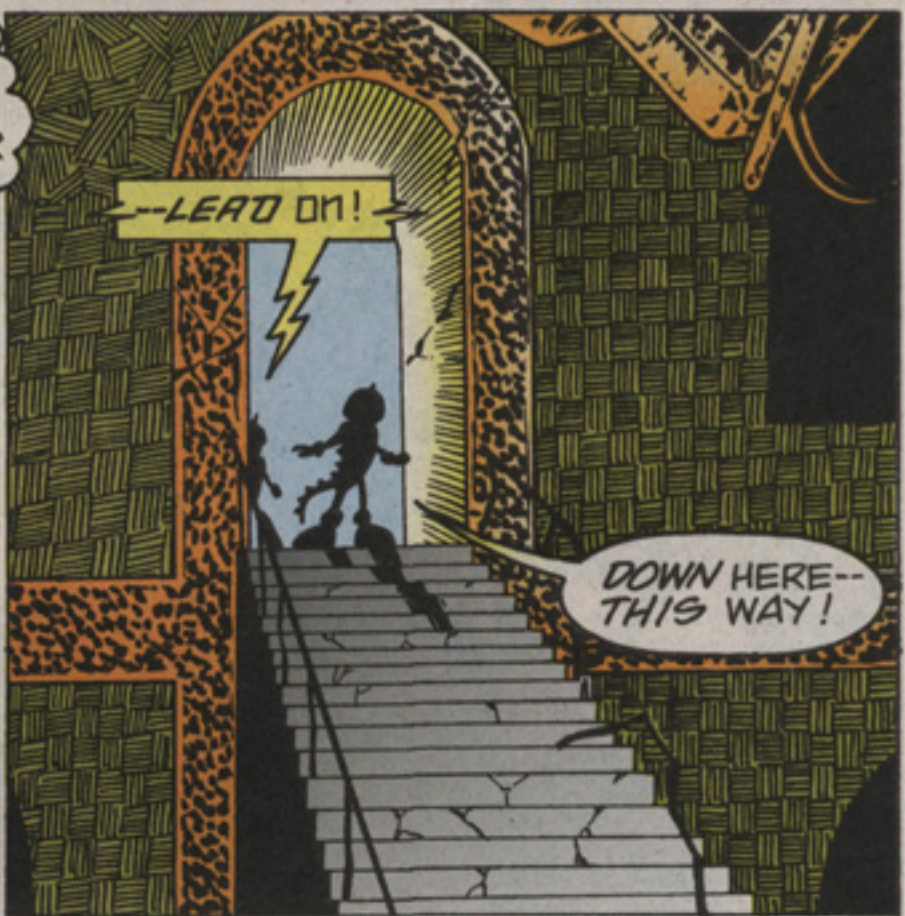


WHAT A GENIUS I AM!

I HADN'T COUNTED ON THE FACT THEY COULD COMMUNICATE THROUGH MEANS OTHER THAN VERBAL!

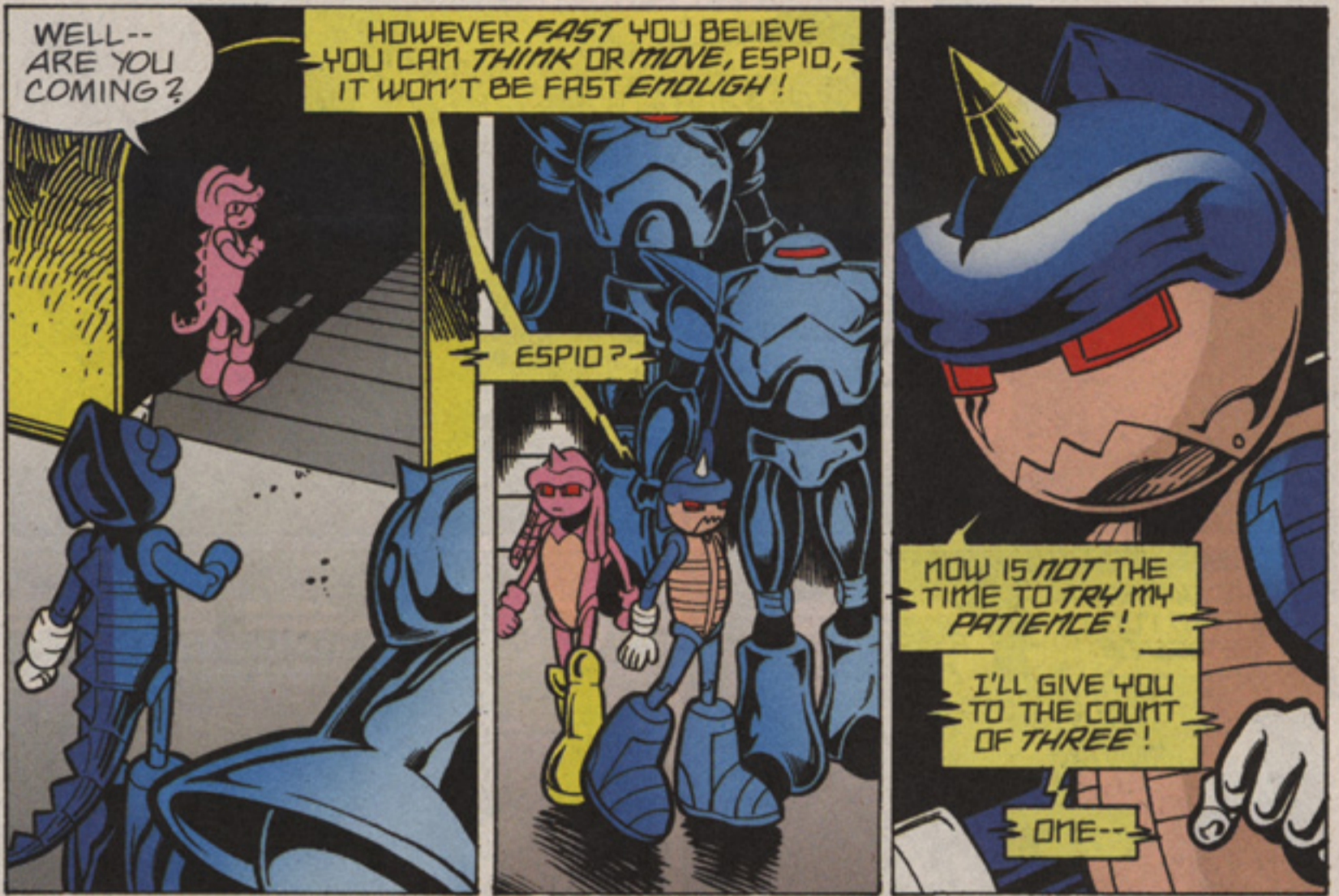
EVERYTHING COULD BLOW UP IN MY FACE AT ANY MOMENT NOW!

VERY WELL, ESPID--



--LEAD ON!

DOWN HERE-- THIS WAY!



WELL-- ARE YOU COMING?

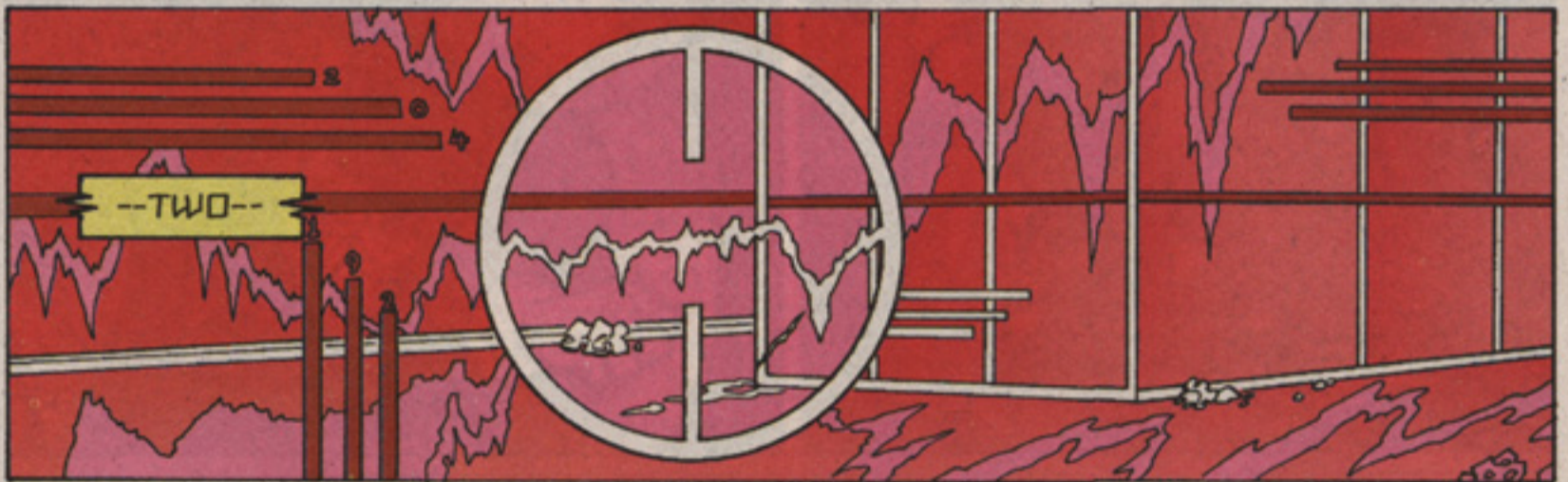
HOWEVER *FAST* YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN *THINK* OR *MOVE*, ESPIO, IT WON'T BE *FAST ENOUGH!*

ESPIO?

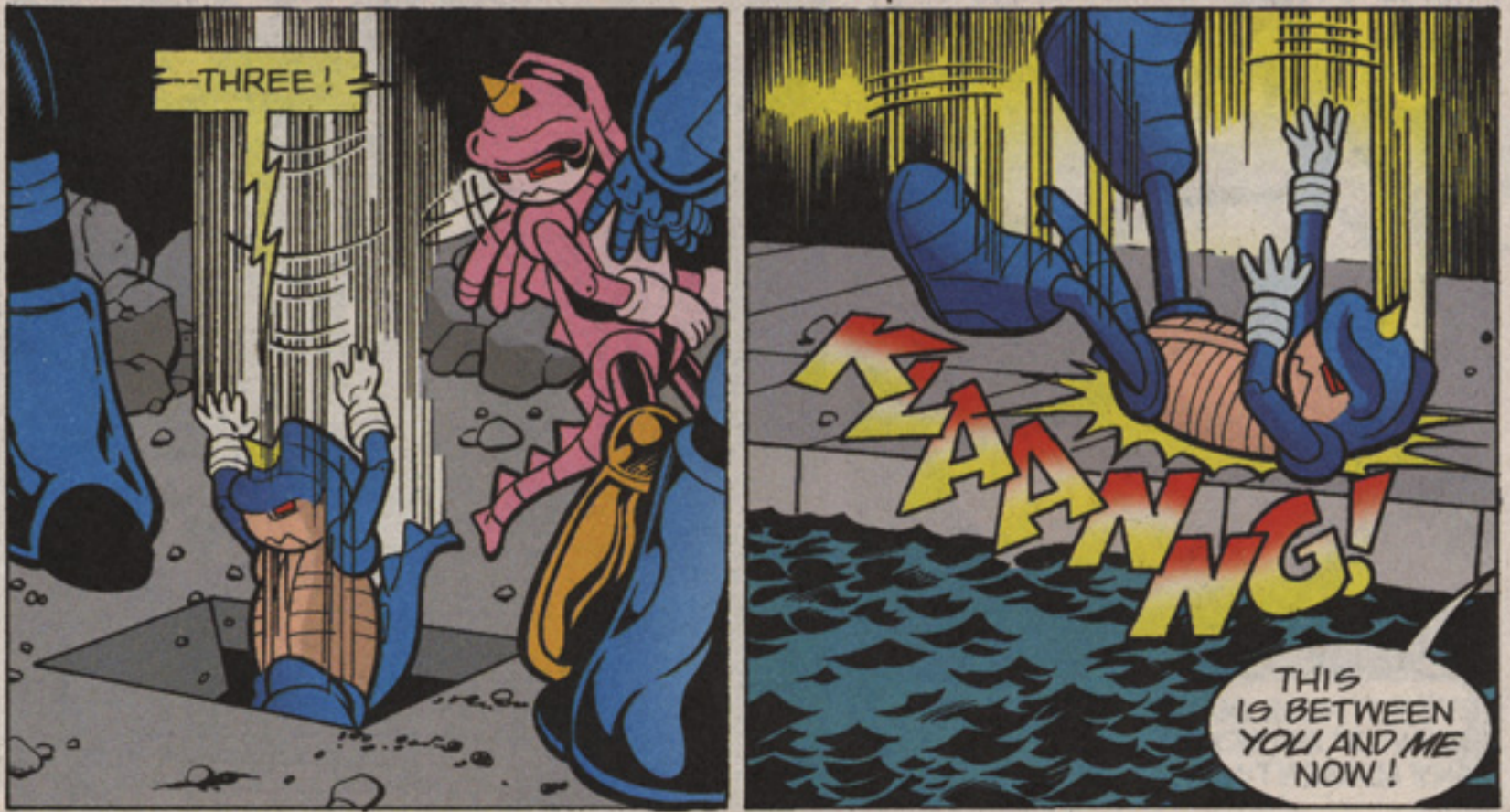
NOW IS *NOT* THE TIME TO TRY MY PATIENCE!

I'LL GIVE YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE!

ONE--



--TWO--



--THREE!

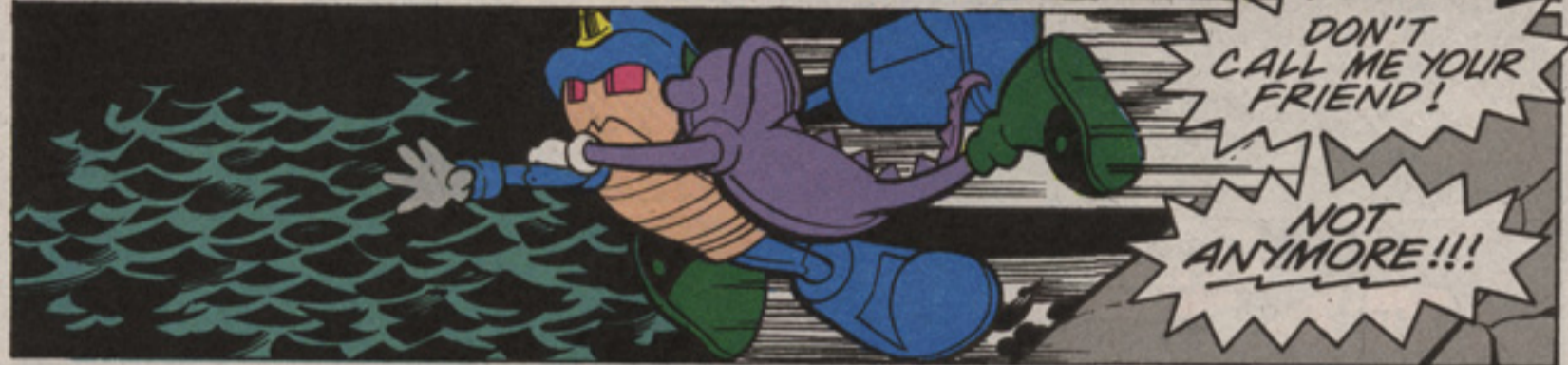
KAAANG!

THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME NOW!



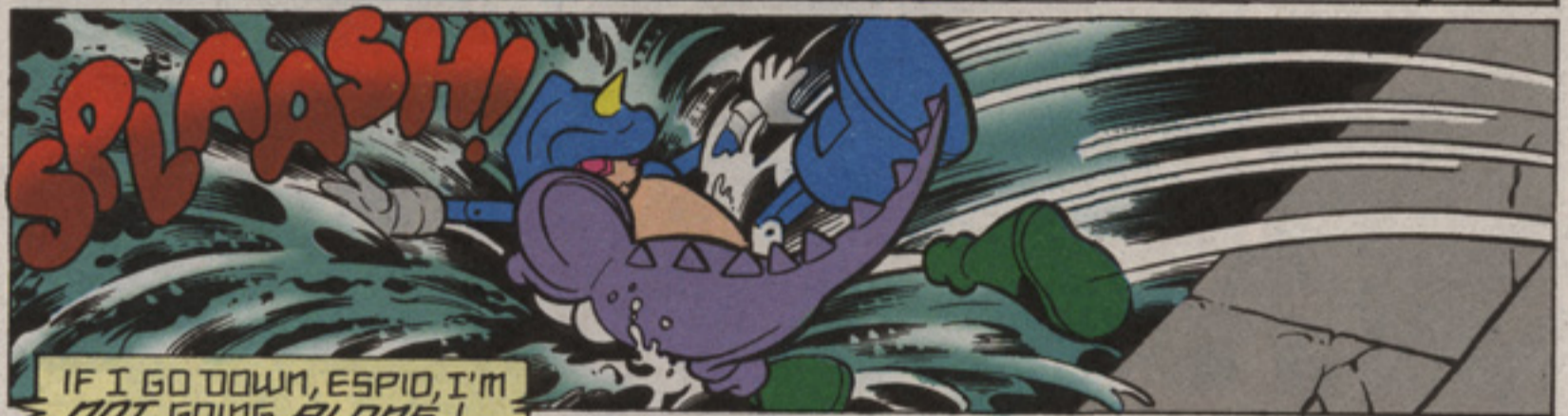
DON'T THINK I'M NOT A CHAMELEON OF MY WORD, MY FRIEND!

YOU'VE NOW SEALED EVERYONE'S FATE!



DON'T CALL ME YOUR FRIEND!

NOT ANYMORE!!!



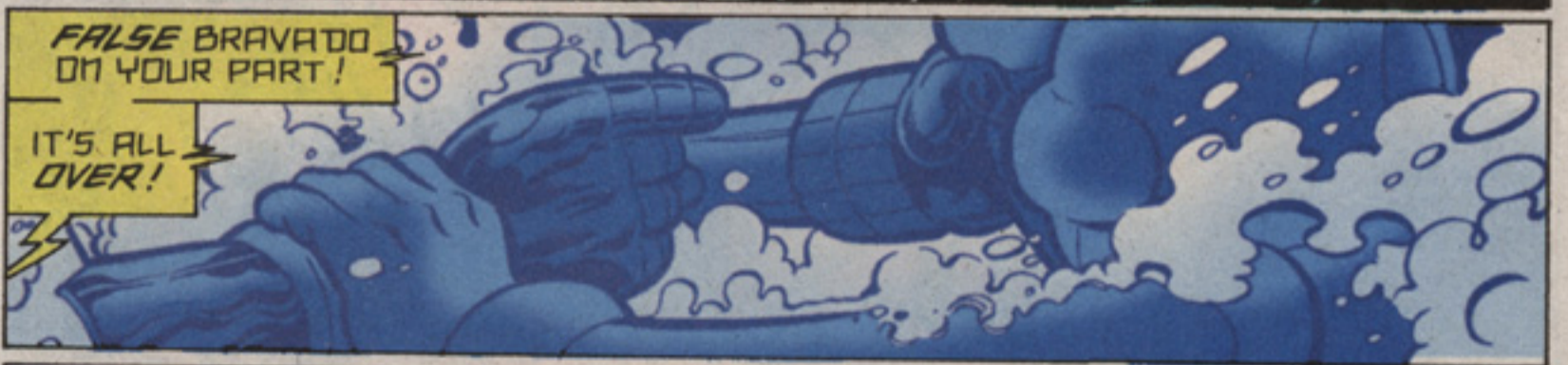
SPLASH!

IF I GO DOWN, ESPID, I'M NOT GOING ALONE!



MAYBE SO, VALDEZ--

-- BUT EVERYONE ELSE WILL STILL HAVE A CHANCE!



FALSE BRAVADO ON YOUR PART!

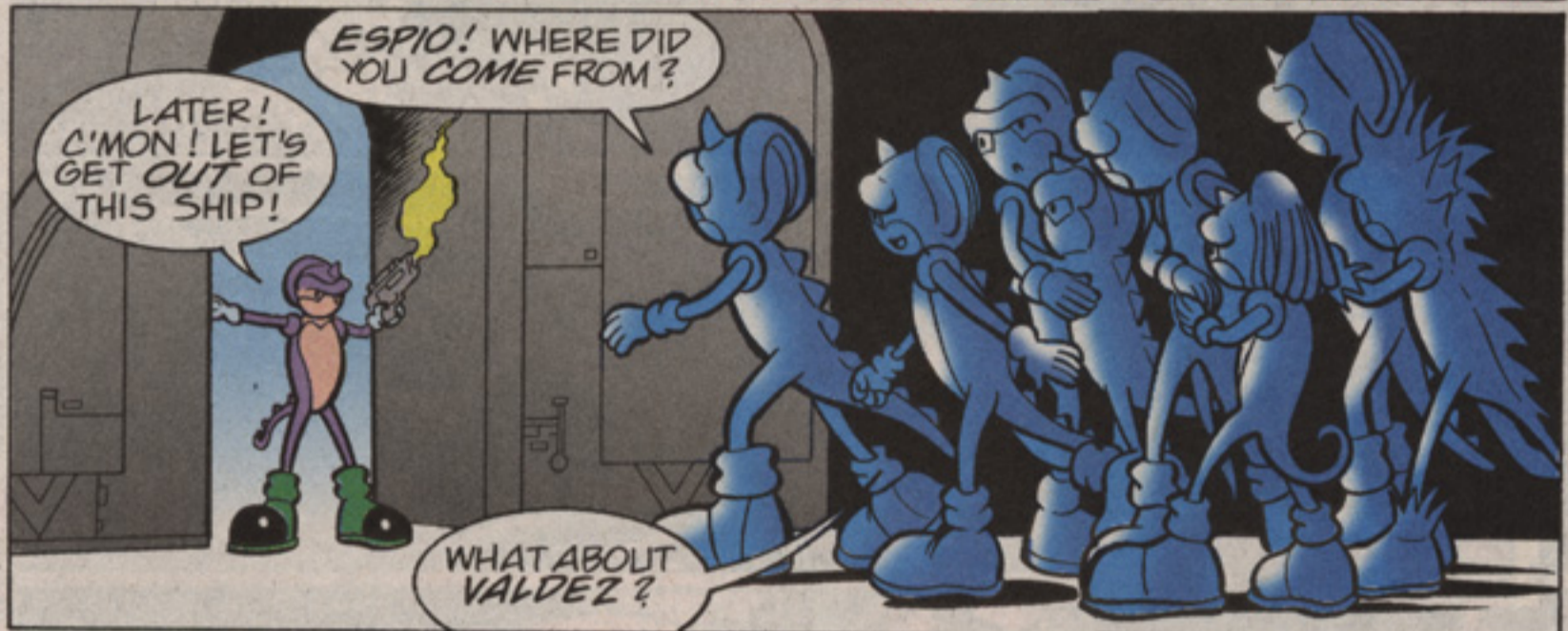
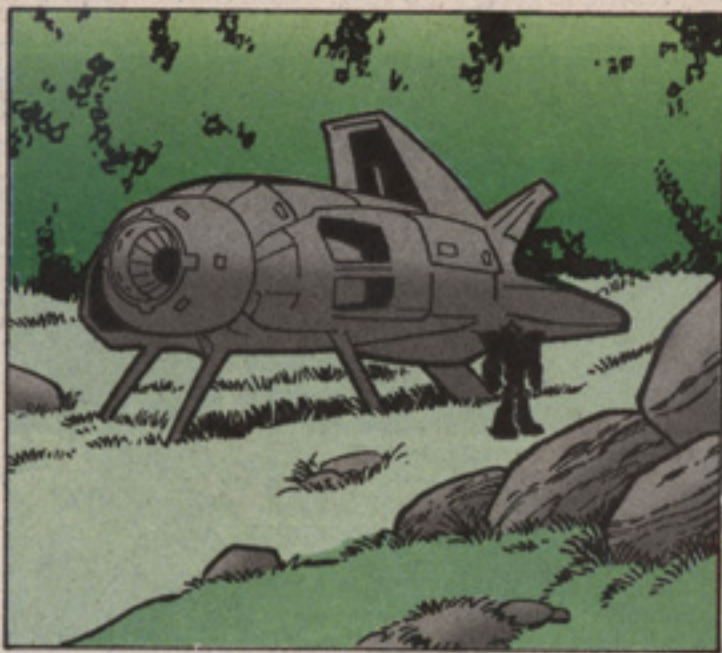
IT'S ALL OVER!



"NOOOOO... blub... blub... blub..."

NO SIGN OF EITHER ONE, ANYWHERE!

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



THE END

**PRO ART BY
RON LIM &
ANDREW PEPOY!
COLOR & PIN-UP!**

